

Yellowbrick Publications

Present

Robin Hood

A Pantomime in 1 Act

Script by David Barrett

Other pantomimes in this series:

Cinderella

Aladdin

Ali Baba

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Robin Hood Dramatis Personae

Dame Betty Hood	Robin's mother
Robin	
Little John	
Will Scarlett	
Friar Tuck	
Adam	
Theobald	
Cedric	
Egbert	
Chorus of Merry Men	
Lord Sheriff	
Lord Robert Dubois	a Norman noble
Sir Henry Beaumarche	a Norman noble
Captain of the Guard	
Sergeant at Arms	
Henri	a cook
Marcelle	a cook (Henri's twin brother)
Chorus of Servants	
Maid Marion	
Ladies in Waiting	
Esther	
Marie	
Claudette	
Michelle	
Elise	
Madam Harfleur	Governess
Chorus of Ladies in Waiting	
The Three Crones	
Wizards: Fizz, Sparkle, Bubble	
The fearsome Grog,	evil monster
Two trees	(non-speaking)
Four Giggly Elves:	
Chuckle	
Chortle	
Snigger	
Po	
Villagers:	
Cuthbert	
Elfgiva	
Ethelred	
Steve, the Reeve	Chorus of Villagers

Scene 1, Sherwood Forest

(Noises off. Sheriff's men searching for Robin Hood)

ROBIN Quick, Egbert, let's hide in here. They'll never catch us here.

EGBERT But, Robin, what about all these people, they'll tell the sheriff's men where we're hiding, won't they?

ROBIN Don't be daft, they're on our side, we're the good guys.
You won't tell the sheriff's men where we're hiding, will you boys and girls?

EGBERT Oh yes they will. (*audience reaction*)

ROBIN Right then, let's hide here.
Enter sheriff's men. Boos.

CPT In here men, they can't have gone far, we'll catch them yet, and when we do..... *Mimes hanging.*

SERG Hey, Captain, let's ask these peasants, they must have seen something.

CAPT Oi, you peasants! Have you seen a desperate, cut-throat villain by the name of Robin Hood passing this way?

Audience No!

SERG I bet you have, (*oh no we haven't!*)

CAPT It's no use asking them, they're on his side. Come on let's look in here.
To audience. And we'll deal with you later....
Boos as they exit into wings. Robin and Egbert reveal themselves.

ROBIN That was a close shave.
Egbert feels Robin's chin.

EGBERT Feels like you haven't shaved for days.

ROBIN No. You misunderstand me, my friend, what I mean is that we were nearly caught red-handed. *Egbert looks at his hands.*
Thank you boys and girls. Without your help we would have been in the dungeons at Nottingham castle soon.

EGBERT Robin, they're coming back, quick, let's hide.
He hides behind a bush which is far too small to conceal him.
Robin looks off stage left.

ROBIN Someone's coming, Egbert, but it certainly isn't the sheriff's men it's a right motley crew. But let's hide any way, we don't want to take any chances.
Enter the Merry Men

SONG 1: Once Upon a Time in Nottingham

JOHN What a cracking good song, there's nothing like a good song for lifting your spirits, eh Will.

WILL You're too right, John, but it won't get us back our property that the Sheriff's stolen, will it.

ADAM We'll get our money back, Will, you'll see. The Sheriff's men won't stand a chance against us, once we're armed. *Mimes a sword-fight.*

CEDRIC You and whose army, Adam, you couldn't even lift an iron sword, let alone fight with it.

ADAM Yea, well we'll soon see about that. *They start to jostle. Crowd noises.*

FRIAR Stop! Stop this madness! You men have no discipline. How will we ever defeat the Sheriff if we squabble amongst ourselves. What we need is a good leader who will make us all find discipline, train hard

and be a match for the sheriff.

WILL The monk's right, men. We need a skilled leader. But where in the world can we find a commander, out here in the woods?
Robin coughs, reveals himself and steps forward. Outlaws draw daggers. He looks them bravely in the eye. Egbert trembles in hiding.

ROBIN Gentlemen, allow me to present myself, Lord Robin of Locksley, son of the Earl of Locksley. You need a leader. I'm willing to help you.
A tense silence follows.

ADAM Lay us an egg, Robin. *Does some bird impressions.*
They lower their weapons, laughing.

JOHN What's your grievance with the Sheriff, you young impostor?

ROBIN I'm no impostor, Master....?

JOHN Little, John Little, known around here as Little John.

ROBIN My grievance is very simple. I have sworn an oath of loyalty to the king and the Sheriff is guilty of treason, along with that puppet of his, Prince John. They have caused my father's death, seized my inheritance and denied me my title. I will fight for the king to the death to end their tyranny.

EGBERT *From behind his tree.* And what's more, the Sheriff's men burnt my house down and stole all my money. Robin came to my rescue. Beat eight of the sheriff's men single-handed and now he's a wanted outlaw.

ROBIN Don't exaggerate, Egbert, it was only six men.

ADAM We're all wanted men here, boy you're in good company.

WILL Just a moment, not so fast, Adam. How do we know this man is who he says he is. I happen to know that the old Earl of Locksley had his lands confiscated.

ROBIN Too right, my friend, and I intend to win them back, from the hand of the King himself. And I intend to marry the king's cousin, Lady Marion.
Hoots of disbelief and scorn

THEOBALD And how do you intend to do that. Are you going to kidnap her?

ROBIN No such thing, she is an old childhood friend.
More laughter.

FRIAR You've got to hand it to him. He is clearly a brave man, even if he is a fool.

THEOBALD Every King has a fool. He is often the wisest man in court.

JOHN I propose to put Lord Robin to the test.

THEOBALD What test, John.

JOHN He claims to be a nobleman, right?

THEOBALD Yea, right chief.

JOHN Then, he must be able to shoot. Bring on the archery butts.

ADAM Yes, the archery butts, very clever, John.
They bring on the targets.

ROBIN *To audience.* Now I'm in trouble.

EGBERT Why's that, Robin, you know you're the best shot in Nottinghamshire.

ROBIN I lost my longbow in that fracas back in Nottingham, and I haven't a spare.

EGBERT But what about the spare one you got by mail-order.

ROBIN There's a problem with that, Egbert. You see I asked for a bow and arrow and this is what they sent me. *Shows a parcel bow and a road-*

sign for the arrow (from the wings).

JOHN Come then, Robin, the contest is afoot.
Egbert picks up his foot and looks at it.

ROBIN But, alas, John Little, I have no bow. How can I shoot.

WILL No problem my friend, you may shoot mine, if you have the strength to draw the string.

ROBIN Why, you...you...

EGBERT *Emerging from his hiding place.* Come on, Robin. You can do it. You know you can. *Robin snatches the bow from Will.*

FRIAR Let the contest begin, between Master John Little and Lord Robin of Locksley.

ROBIN You first, John. Show me how it's done.

JOHN So be it!
John draws back his arrow. Lighting changes and two sprites enter. The action freezes.

SWIFT Hold your contest, freeze the scene,
Mischievous abounds as we intervene.

FLEET Playful sprites of forest free,
Fairies, fast as fast can be.

SWIFT In the twinkling of an eye,
Swifter than the wind we fly.

FLEET Take the dart from archer's bow,
To the target - just so.
And away before we are discovered. *Exit*
The action unfreezes and the merry men cheer as they see John's shot. As Robin draws his bow silence falls again, action freezes and the sprites enter.

SWIFT Now with shaft from Robin's bow,
Faster than the clouds I go.

FLEET Place in centre of the ring,
Now our Robin's sure to win.
And so adieu, good friends,

BOTH Adieu.
Action unfreezes. Wild cheers from the crowd. Robin is lifted up. ENTER MESSENGER and all goes quiet.

MESS My Lord Robin, I have searched vainly for you throughout the forest with urgent news.

THEOBALD How is it that you find him now, Herald?

MESS The noise, my Lord, you were not hard to find.

EGBERT Well, what news, fellow?

MESS It concerns the Maid Marion, my Lord, she is taken by the Sheriff's men and held hostage in his stronghold in Nottingham.

ROBIN For pity's sake, not Marion. I must go to her and rescue her from his evil clutches.

EGBERT But Robin, there are only two of us, what do you propose to do?
Robin pauses for a while, looking around the men.

ROBIN Alright men, as highest ranking nobleman here I propose to take charge of this band of able men and form a fighting force. The purpose is two-fold; to take the castle and defeat the sheriff and to rescue the Maid Marion from his evil clutches. Now who is with me and who is

not?

Silence! One man steps towards him and says "I'm with you, Robin" and slowly they all join. Will Scarlet is reluctant but joins in the end.

Very good. John, you shall be my Lieutenant and lead one group of men and I shall go ahead with an advance party to assess the extent of the opposition. I know the castle well from days gone by as a guest of the old honest Sheriff Able.

JOHN Right, Robin. We shall conceal ourselves at the edge of the forest and await your orders.

ROBIN Thank you, John. Well, off you go men, take your weapons and rally in the name of the king.

ALL In the name of the king!

SONG 2: Robin Hood and Little John